GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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CAUGHT IN THE QUICKSANDS

The expedition car was caught in Chaco Canyon (see Bulletin No. 2) quicksands one Sunday afternoon when on exploration duty, and this photograph was taken while waiting for an Indian runner to bring help. After six hours' strenuous work the machine was rescued through the united efforts of ten men, a team of horses, and a second truck; once on firm ground, it returned to camp under its own power.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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The Sudan: A Vestibule to Africa's Negro Belt

MANY cross currents affect the Sudan, scene recently of the mutiny of Egyptian troops. Religiously the country may be divided into two zones: the northern or civilized zone in which practically the entire population is Mohammedan; and the southern or barbarous zone, which is predominantly pagan. The entire population is not far from 6,000,000, and nearly one-half the people are of primitive negroid types living in the tropical southern belt.

Inhabitants a Medley of Races

A sort of Arab mixture inhabits the north, while in the east is Kipling's old friend the "Fuzzy-Wuzzy." On the whole, it is a thinly peopled land of amazing distances. One can go south from the Egyptian frontier six hundred miles by rail before he gets to Khartum. From there south he can go another thousand miles on a flat-bottomed, paddle-wheel Nile steamer before he reaches the southern boundary of the Sudan, which is almost on the edge of the great lakes and a third of the way to the Cape of Good Hope.

So mixed is the native population of the Nile banks in the Sudan that it has been aptly named the "Negro Potpourri," though some ethnologists contend that these blacks are not really negroes.

Probably the Nubians, geographically and physically, are the real link between Egypt and negro-land. Though Moslems for centuries, they have kept their own dialects.

Mohammedanism Appeals to Sudanese

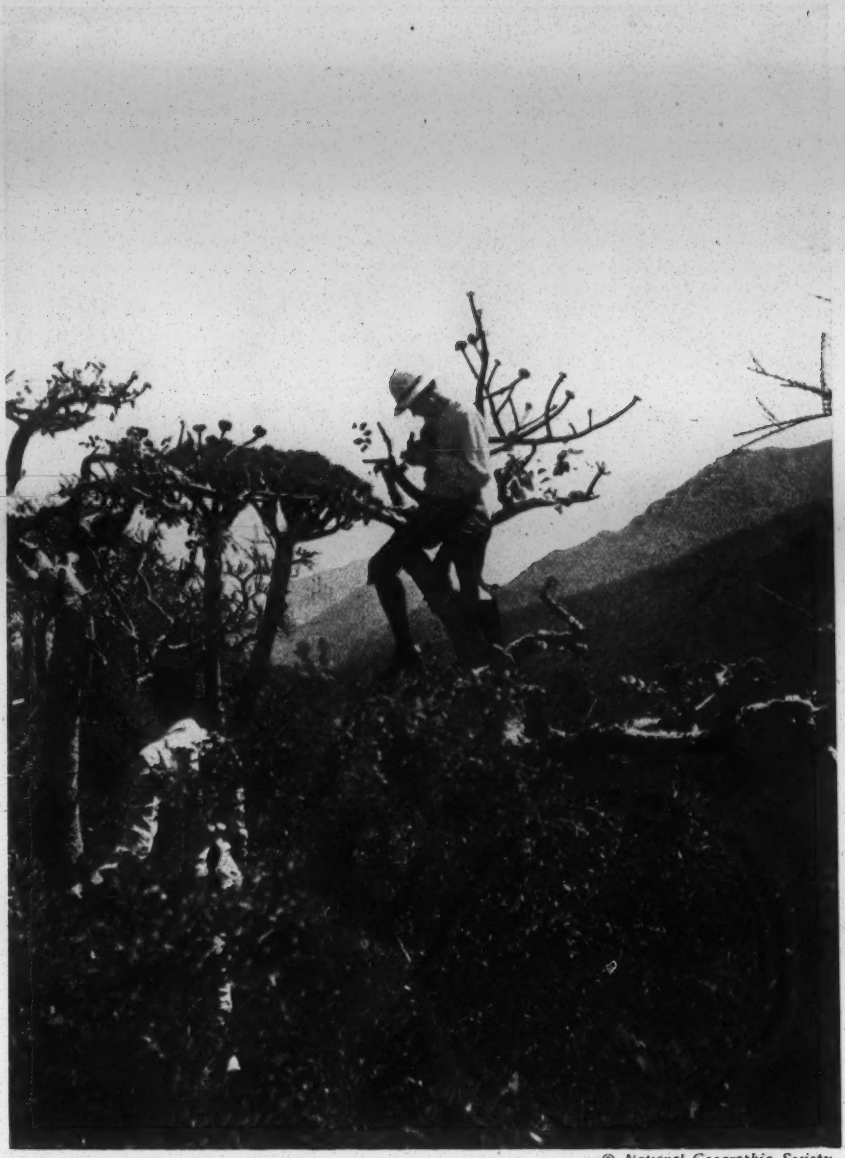
The richness of the Nile Valley has, century after century, lured so many invaders into it that to-day a veritable babel of races and tongues is found here. Apparently, the Moslem religion appeals strongly to the wild tribes of North Africa, and millions have adopted it. Many are carelessly called Arabs because they are Moslems, or because they can speak Arabic, or because they wear a picturesque make-up of town Arab and Bedouin garments.

"Invasion, however, is not the only disturbing element," a British military report says. "The natives of the Sudan, even when they have adopted a more or less settled life, are great travelers; traffic in human flesh and conquest for the sake of human flesh have nowhere been pursued so long and so thoroughly. The native changes his abode without hesitation, and his love of strange women is passing Solomon's.

"The real Arab appears to dominate the northern part of the Sudan, from Egypt to Kordofan, though he has nowhere exterminated the original inhabitants; he has in many cases not yet succeeded in forcing his own language on them, but he has intermarried freely with them, and the resulting mixture calls itself Arabian. It is an old saying in Egypt that you can't tell a Turk of the third generation from a native of the Nile country."

No Love for Egyptians

The Sudanese do not like the Egyptians; their only common tie is that both live on the waters of the Nile. Just now, too, the project of building the new



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PHOTOGRAPHING THE LEAVES AND FLOWERS OF THE FRANKINCENSE TREE

One variety of the Dragon's Blood is the tree seen in the middle, with two frankincense trees (see Bulletin No. 3), right and left. The trunks are about 30 inches in circumference, the height 25 feet. They are growing in very rocky soil at an altitude of 2,800 feet.

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New Facts Found About Ancient America

NEIL M. JUDD, leader of the National Geographic Society's expedition to Pueblo Bonito, the pre-Columbian "apartment house" of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, has brought back to Washington an amazing array of exquisite art objects and domestic utensils which shed new light on an early metropolis of Indian America.

Perhaps the most beautiful piece in the collection is a turquoise necklace of 2,500 pieces and four pendants—the only complete specimen of such a necklace known. The method by which the Indians ground down the tiny pieces, and bored them out to be strung on sinews, has won the admiration of modern jewelers. The four pendants are remarkable specimens of turquoise, deep blue, and with them, Mr. Judd said, he could have purchased every Indian horse in San Juan County.

Jewels Mounted With Pine Gum

Other unique art objects are jet rings, perfectly rounded, on which are mounted tiny carved turquoise birds. The mounting was done with pine gum, the adhesive of the American ancients, which lasted through the ages the rings lay buried in the pueblo ruins.

To get these, and other tiny pieces, the Geographic explorers this summer sifted tons of debris, after building a miniature railroad, and set mule-drawn steel dump cars to work hauling out the rubbish.

Recovered by this tedious process are some of the closest woven and finest specimens of Indian basketry yet discovered. To preserve these required the utmost dexterity, for often upon exposure a zephyrlike breeze would dissipate the specimens. The hope of preserving them lay in waxing them immediately upon their exposure.

Historically one of the important finds is a double basket, the like of which has hitherto been unknown in ruins other than cliff-dwellings, and the use of which has not yet been determined. It may furnish another clue to determine further the habits, customs and religious beliefs of these aborigines. Although they left no written words, nor even any pictograph records that can be deciphered, they attained a civilization as interesting as the early cultures along the Nile and in Mesopotamia, yet distinctive from all Old World peoples. Already the daily life of the Pueblo Bonito dwellers has been pieced out patiently in great detail.

Rouge Still Intact

"That object looks like a 'vanity box,' " remarked one geographer who viewed the collections.

"Not only that, but here is a bit of the rouge the Bonitans used," replied Mr. Judd, and he displayed a lump of reddish clay, which still will color the flesh. These "make-up" devices were used by the Bonitan men, however, rather than their women, and they served principally for the beautification of participants in their dramatic religious ceremonies.

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Nile dams in the Sudan is arousing much excitement in Egypt, where the fellaheen fear that they may be robbed of some of their ancient irrigation rights. And water, at best, is not always too plentiful in Egypt.

Physically, the Sudan varies from the desert region of the north, where cultivation is confined to the narrow Nile Valley, through the central zone including productive soil and large areas of "rain lands," to the tropical zone of very fertile soil and heavy rains.

Egypt depends mainly on the Sudan for its meat supply, and thousands of acres of land have been put under pump irrigation to provide food crops for Egypt, whose people, as one investigator said, cannot subsist on bank notes and cotton. Slavery, once so common along the upper Nile, has been largely put down, except, perhaps, in the remoter regions.

The Sudan, say the Egyptians, is an integral part of Egypt; but it was conquered, misgoverned, and lost by successive khedives, and for years and years it was exploited by Egypt for ivory, gold and slaves. Both socially and racially, it differs from Egypt.

Bulletin No. 1, December 15, 1924.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send.....copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN for the school year beginning with the issue of....., for classroom use, to

Name.....

Address for sending Bulletins.....

City..... State.....

I am a teacher in.....school.....grade.

Enclose 25 cents for each annual subscription.

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Socotra: An Isle of Frankincense

FRANKINCENSE, which is linked with myrrh in the New Testament story of the first Christmas, formerly came from Socotra.

Frankincense is the aromatic gum burned as incense in churches and temples of both the East and West. It is even possible that one of the gifts of the Magi to the infant Jesus came from Socotra, for in the past this island of the Indian Ocean was almost the sole source of this highly prized gum.

Socotrans Long Civilized

The island people became at least superficially civilized ages ago through the influence of gum traders. They were at one time Christians, but since the seventeenth century have been Mohammedans. They are ruled by a Sultan under British protection. Nor is the island small; it is nearly half as large as Crete or Porto Rico.

Socotra is not often visited by Westerners, but this is rather because of the religious jealousy of the Sultan than because of any danger from the natives. The latter were described a few years ago by a visitor writing for the National Geographic Society as "a kindly folk, hospitable and quite harmless."

Continuing, he wrote: "Hadibo, the capital, or Tamarida, as the Arabs call it, from Tamar, the date-fruit tree, is a collection of flat-roofed white houses scattered among the palms. The Sultan's 'palace' is a large mud structure with flat towers, and the two prayer houses are suggestive of the graceful Arab mosques only by contrast. The poorer population, chiefly of African descent and much older in the history of the island than its Arab aristocracy, lives in huts of thorn and plaited grass, invariably overrun with luxuriant gourd vines. Surrounded by tiny garden plots, in which tombac, or native tobacco, lentils, melons, and yams grow abundantly, they are more picturesque outside than inside.

"There is not much to be seen in Hadibo. The principal amusement afforded the visitor is that of being seen.

Touches of Pastoral Beauty

"Nothing could be lovelier than the sight of slender Socotran cattle grazing knee-deep among the grasses and the palm branches that line the banks of the lagoons near Hadibo. Clouds massed above and mountains near behind; long shadows dappling the water, and the sun turning to gold the tawny flanks of the cattle, make a picture of pastoral beauty rare to behold in this part of the East.

"To-day Socotra exports practically nothing except ghi, a rancid butter, made from goat's milk and highly prized in Zanzibar. The inhabitants number about 5,000, and the bulk of them are of African descent, though Bedouins live in the mountain caves, and the ruling class is Arab. The language is distinct in itself, though possessing many Arabic and Mahri words. It has a wondrous wealth of gurgles and impossible noises in the throat. There are no words for horse or dog, because these animals are not found on the island. Fine breeds of camels and donkeys, which are the tamed sons of the wild asses roaming in thousands on the interior plains, are the beasts of burden.

"The Socotrans are for the most part a pastoral people, living upon their

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Pipes Used to "Make Clouds"

Pipes also are in the collection. Some of these were "pleasure pipes" resembling very much the short, large-bowl English models. Others resemble cigar holders, with flaring bowls, and these were used to "make clouds" in the Bonitans' kivas, or worship chambers.

Objects which shed light on the economic habits of the Bonitans are the fleshers, with jet and turquoise inlays, used to remove flesh from the skins of animals; flint knives, which are chipped down with infinite skill and patience; and bone needles, used in sewing skins.

The broad area of communication of these ancient peoples is disclosed by objects found in their "apartments" which were brought from points as distant as the Pacific coast and the Valley of Mexico.

Bulletin No. 2, December 15, 1924.

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THE "GOGGLYWOGGLE"

"A lonely figure detached itself from the beach and came shoveling (there is no other word to describe it) a three-log raft through the vitreous water. He was an ancient fisherman so remarkably like little Alice's friend that one of the ladies dubbed him 'Gogglywoggle.'" (see Bulletin No. 3).

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The Geography of Coins

AMERICANS who visit Europe and encounter such strange new coins as the zloty, the lit and the estmark will be surprised little more than some folk who stay at home and meet up with one of the silver dollars the U. S. Treasury is trying to put into active circulation in the East.

The Easterner of the Middle Atlantic States of to-day smiles at the early West's refusal to accept "paper money," but he frowns when he goes to New England and is handed a two-dollar bill—a denomination he is not accustomed to use.

20-Cent Piece Tried

Unfounded as many money prejudices may be, governments must bow to them. Our own country tried vainly for more than thirty years to circulate silver 3-cent pieces, and finally discontinued them. The public made shorter shrift of the 20-cent piece issued in 1875, and it was withdrawn three years later.

Until the World War began Austrian Maria Theresa dollars of 1780 continued to be minted with that date stamped on them because certain African coast natives would take no other coins. The Spanish dollar persisted in the United States, all through the period of British colonial rule, and of our independence, even until 1857 when it still was received at American post offices.

Economists tell learnedly why money makes the commercial world go round, but a Parisian opera singer of a decade ago learned the lesson in one classic experience. She was determined to tour the world thoroughly and she stopped over in the Society Islands where her manager contracted to have her sing for one-third the receipts. Her share of "the box-office" was 3 pigs, 23 turkeys, 44 chickens, 5,000 coconuts and an uncomputed quantity of bananas and oranges. She couldn't convert her proceeds; the natives had no money. She fed the fruit to the animals and donated her barnyard to the community when she sailed away.

Every Stage of Money Progress

Though the United States emerged when the world had attained a highly advanced monetary status, our own country illustrates virtually every stage of money history. The white man bartered trinkets with the Indians, the Hudson's Bay Company made furs its unit of exchange, cattle in our own West, as in early Rome, constituted money. In Maryland, for a time, one could pay his taxes with corn and a Virginian could pay his debts with tobacco.

Even to-day, the country store which takes the farmer's eggs and butter "in trade" for crêpe-de-chine and radio sets, exemplifies the barter stage of commerce. So does the newspaper which, in its classified columns, affords Mrs. Smith the opportunity to announce "For Exchange—one handsome baby carriage, practically as good as new, for small refrigerator in good condition."

Money measures civilization. Barbarism reigns where all trade is barter. Skins and furs as money represent a hunting or nomadic stage. When cattle enter into exchange a pastoral age is attained. Even metal money exhibits well-defined stages. First, the quality of the metal figured in transactions. Then a

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flocks and herds. They have neither inclination nor skill for the industrial arts. The baskets they weave and their earthen pots, fashioned with a bit of coconut rind in lieu of a potter's wheel, are rude imitations of the southern Arab's handiwork. Those who live by the sea catch fish or dive for mother-of-pearl. They have a most ingenious 'telescope' for spying out the wonders that lie at the ocean's bottom. It is simply a kerosene oil can, 'made in America,' with a sheet of glass set into one side. Into the opposite side the observer thrusts his head, and with the glass bottom well down in the water he is rowed slowly back and forth, mouth and eyes well protected from the salt water, which further serves him as a magnifying lens."

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SUDANESE NATIVES ANNOUNCING A RELIGIOUS DANCE (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Tripoli: The White Man's Burden of Italy

A TOWN of Tripoli is reported to have experienced recently a temperature of 134.6 degrees.

Physically, Tripoli—or Libya, as the Italians call it, reapplying the old Greek name—is flooded with sunlight as are its neighbors; but to the world at large it is a hazy country for all that. Its boundaries start bravely southward from definite points on the Mediterranean coast, but as to just what happens to them after they get well into the Sahara neither statesmen nor map-makers seem to agree. They dip somewhere south of the Tropic of Cancer and meet somewhere north of Lake Chad—500 or 600 or 700 miles or so. Lack of exploration of its hinterland as compared with neighboring countries contributes to the haziness in regard to Tripoli. And finally little is known of its population; it has been estimated at from 1,000,000 to 6,000,000.

Noting that the Italians frequently have an uprising on their hands in Tripoli, a punster points out that Italy's title to the country dates from the Treaty of Ouchy.

Lies Opposite Sole of Italian Boot

Tripoli is just across the Mediterranean from the sole of the "boot" of Italy, and economic and strategic reasons are probably sufficient explanation of Italian interest in the country. But in addition the Italians were influenced by a similar force to that which turns the faces of the Greeks toward Asia Minor—a consciousness that their ancient culture once embraced this country. After Carthage was destroyed the area now constituting Libya became a Roman province, and later was the birthplace of two Roman emperors, Septimius Severus and Alexander Severus.

Old Roman writers described the two parts of Libya, Tripoli and Cyrenaica, as extremely fertile. Perhaps they exaggerated, and perhaps also the climate and physical conditions have changed markedly. At any rate most of the country is now desert with its fertile strips and oases scattered in the wastes of sand and stones. There is much evidence that the region once knew better days climatically. Great avenues of stones set on end and numerous circles of monoliths and trilithons, like the famous Stonehenge of England, testify to a neolithic culture of importance in this section of North Africa, perhaps many thousands of years before Memphis and Babylon were thought of.

Phoenicians There 3400 Years Ago

The Phoenicians began the recorded history of the country by establishing cities there, perhaps as early as 1500 B. C. The fact that these cities and their surrounding country throve then, and that later Greek and Roman culture flourished there, indicates that the country was more favored then than now.

Sand dunes have encroached through the centuries on much land in the fertile strip along the Mediterranean coast. But the relatively poor condition of Tripoli to-day is largely due to sociological and governmental factors. The commercial Phoenicians and the colonizing Greeks and Romans were able to make the most of the country. Since the region was overrun by the Arabs in 644 A. D., and since it passed under Turkish control later, however, it has been marked to a con-

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certain quantity of metal of fixed quality became a monetary unit. The Hebrew "shekel" is the name of a weight as, originally, were the English "pound" and the Italian "lira."

Shekels and Cattle of Genesis

The Jews of Genesis illustrate both these stages. It is recorded that Abraham was "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." And in one of history's earliest real estate records the consideration named when Ephron sold Abraham a cave is "400 shekels of silver, current money with the merchant."

Finally metal money was shaped and marked, and thus arrived the coin of invariable weight, quality, shape and design as we know it to-day.

The ox was the dollar, the sheep was the dime, in early Roman days. And ten sheep equaled one ox in Roman markets. Naturally the devices on early Roman coins represented animals or parts of animals. At first these were stamped on one side only.

Greenland's Animal Designs

Animals mark the denominations of a Greenland paper currency issue of this century. The eider duck, saddle-backed seal, reindeer, and polar bear denote different denominations.

Roman coins illustrate the religion, the architecture, the games and sports, historic events and, in a striking manner, the advent of Christianity. The early Constantine coins disclose the classic heathen gods; after his conversion the coins bear the symbol of the Cross. Were all other sources destroyed the coin collector of 1924 could describe Roman basilicas, aqueducts, columns, tombs, arches and temples.

The diversity of this coin information was enhanced by the practice of sending the mint master along with Roman armies. Soldiers were paid in the field with money minted in the field, often from locally mined metals. In England's Civil War Charles I, during his refuge in castles and forts, struck off coins to pay his troops and defray his personal expenses. These are the "siege-pieces" referred to by collectors of English coins.

Some Monetary Milestones

Queen Mary was the first English ruler to date her coins. Edward VI first used a value mark when he put Roman numerals on the 12-pence piece. Oliver Cromwell is accredited with introducing inscriptions on the edges of coins to prevent chipping off the silver pieces of his day.

Since the gold stater of Philip of Macedon found universal acceptance, gold has been king in international exchange. But there are places in the world to-day where primitive currency prevails—ivory tusks, sheep, shells, furs, olive oil and coconuts. If civilized man would do business with many African tribes he must forego money, hence a famous London firm which barters European manufactured goods for palm oil, gold dust, cotton, gum and coffee with natives who haven't attained a money status.

To-day, as when the Virginia legislature legalized tobacco money, there is a dominion where the "queerest money in the world" survives. That region is the Island of Yap, nicknamed the "Island of Stone Money" on account of its queer coins. These may weigh a ton. In fiscal nomenclature they might be termed "securities" rather than a circulating medium. They are fashioned into a wheel shape, with a center hole, and must be a certain variety and quality of limestone to meet monetary standards.

siderable extent by economic and cultural stagnation. While the other principal countries of Africa bordering on the Mediterranean have been under European control for nearly half a century and have been becoming more prosperous under stable forms of government, Tripoli remained until 1911 the last stand of the Turk in Africa, if we except the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan in Egypt.

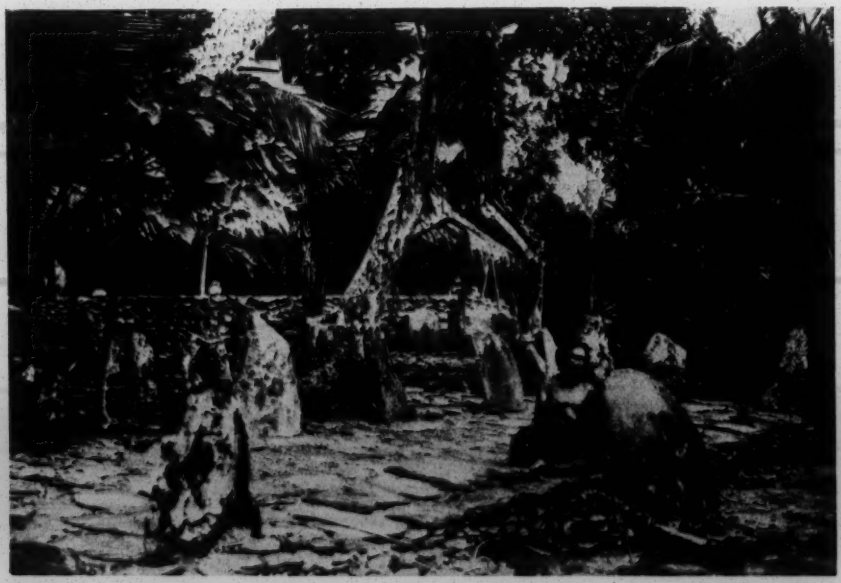
In places along the 1,000-mile coast of Tripoli the arid sands come down to the water's edge, but between are fertile areas on which palms, olives, figs, oranges, and other fruits flourish. Farther inland among the highlands occur some rather large patches on which olives and fruits and grain are grown. Then come the vast desert stretches in which are hidden away small, palm-covered oases. On considerable areas in Cyrenaica grain and grasses grow and stock raising promises to become an important industry.

Difficult Terrain for Europeans

Tripoli has difficult "terrain" for Europeans to fight against desert folk familiar with all its stones and sand hills. Everywhere, to serve as hiding places, are the innumerable "wadis," which Westerners will understand better when it is explained that they are the Arabic equivalents for the arroyos or dry gullies of our West. The vast desert hinterland is untouched by steel rails. So far, the Italians have been able to construct only about a hundred miles of railroad along the coast on each side of the City of Tripoli and about another 100 miles extending from the port inland.

The City of Tripoli has been called "the gateway to the Sahara." Three historic desert caravan routes have converged there for ages: the trail from Timbuktu, that from Lake Chad, and a southeastern route from the region of the Egyptian Sudan. These routes were of great importance for the bringing from central Africa of ivory, ostrich feathers, gold dust, and perhaps most valuable of all in a primitive environment, "black gold"—negro slaves. This traffic was ostensibly abolished by Turkey only in recent years.

Bulletin No. 5, December 15, 1924.



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THE FRONT YARD OF THE TOMIL CLUB-HOUSE: YAP

The yard around the building is covered with flat stones, and here many of the native conferences and dances are held. The man in the picture is leaning against one of the yellowish limestone discs that were formerly used as money on the island (see Bulletin No. 4).